46. Expenditure.—The following statement shows the expenditure on medical relief during the year, as compared with that of the previous year :—

	1082 Rs.	1083 Rs.
Government institutions	3,02,826	3,06,683
Grant-in-aid to medical institutions	11,516	12,586
Vaidyasalas	14,823	14,856
Total.....	3,29,165	3,34,125

Sanitation.

47. Conservancy establishments were, as in the previous year, maintained in 47 stations, of which five were towns governed by the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation. The expenditure incurred by Government on these five towns was Rs. 54,300, while the outlay on the other 42 places amounted to Rs. 46,557. The total outlay from the general revenues on sanitation was thus Rs. 1,00,857. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 68,457 incurred in the towns of Trivandrum, Nagercoil, Alleppey, and Kottayam, Rs. 54,300 came from the general revenues, against a sum of over Rs. 65,000 in the previous year, the amount contributed by the people directly benefited rising from a little less than Rs. 6,000 in the previous year to Rs. 14,157 in the year under review. This is *some* improvement, but in the opinion of His Highness' Government, further relief *has* to be given to the general tax-payer and the towns benefited *have* to be made to pay more largely for their local needs. In sanctioning the budgets for 1084 for the Town Improvement Committees, the Sirkar grants have been further reduced, from Rs. 54,300 to Rs. 40,500, and it has been suggested to the Committees that they might levy house tax to make up for the reduction. The Bill now before the Legislative Council authorises His Highness' Government to sanction, of their own motion, the imposition of local taxation in the towns governed by the Regulation. And for the reasons which have induced us to take this step, I cannot do better than quote the remarks made by me at the meeting of the Council which took place on the 14th September last.

"With reference to what Mr. Kuruvila has said, I would only remark that, "even when the present law was passed, it *was* contemplated that the Town Im- "provement Committees should gradually resort to local taxation to supplement the "grants given to them by Government, but the discretion to tax was however vest- "ed wholly in them. If the Committees had gradually used their powers, nothing "would have been more pleasing to Government than to have allowed a state of "things like that to continue. Unfortunately, though the T. I. C. Regulation "came into force more than eight years ago, not a single Committee has made reason- "able proposals to use their power. It is not a question of the interests of Govern- "ment, as against the interests of the urban population. On the other hand, it is "a question of the interests of the general tax-payer as against those of the urban "population. Are we for ever to leave it to the people of a few towns to tax them-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly